

FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Location:

Benjamin Eddy Building
6 South Killingly Road
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, April 26, 2011
Open Session - 7:00 pm

1. Convene Meeting – Mrs. Swanson, Chair, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee to order at 7:10 pm on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 held at the Benjamin Eddy Building at 6 South Killingly Road.

a. Roll Call –

All members were present: Kathleen Swanson, Chair, Shelley Pezza, Vice Chair, and member, Patricia Fountain, Superintendent / Principal, Dr. Davida Irving and School Committee Secretary, Mrs. McCullough.

b. Pledge of Allegiance –

Everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes –

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the School Committee approved the Budget Workshop minutes of February 8, 2011 as amended. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain the minutes of the Foster School Committee Sub-Negotiation Committee on February 28, 2011, March 7, 2011 and March 14, 2011 were approved. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the School Committee approved the ‘Sealed’ Executive Session minutes of March 22, 2011. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the School Committee approved the Open Session minutes of March 22, 2011. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

3. Approval of Warrants –

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the School Committee approved the Warrant dated March 31, 2011 in the amount of \$104,671.48. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain - no

4. New Business (for discussion/action)

a. Transportation Contract –

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain the School Committee awarded the transportation contract to Ocean State Transportation. Discussion followed. Mr. Greg Stinson and Tony Burgo from Ocean State Transportation attended the meeting. Mr. Stinson and Mrs. Swanson signed the contract that evening. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

b. Audit Report – Mrs. Swanson asked to hold this item until Malcolm Moore, Business Manager, arrived to go over the Audit.

c. NECAP Scores –

Mrs. Seitler, Aspiring Principal, gave a presentation of the NECAP score results. Discussion followed.

b. Audit Report –

Malcolm Moore went over the Audit Report with the School Committee. On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the School Committee accepted the Audit dated 7/1/2009 to 6/30/2010. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

d. Capital Maintenance Report – Upgrades to Education and Technology

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the School Committee approved for Dr. Irving to begin the work on a Capital Maintenance Report – upgrades to education and technology. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

e. School Calendar 2011-2012 –

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the School Committee approved the Superintendent's recommendation for the 2011-2012 School Calendar. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

5. Old Business (for discussion/action)

a. Roof Collapse –

1) Update –

Mr. Joe McGovern, Building Maintenance Director, reported to the School Committee that the school looks good for opening on time for the next school year. The Trust is installing a new fire alarm system. He also reported that he has put a call into the State Building Inspector's office for the approval of a building permit but has not heard back yet. The plans are in order. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the School Committee approved the transition to Dr. Irving as the point of contact for the Trust and for the building. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-1.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – abstain

2) School Calendar 2010-2011 –

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the School Committee accepted The Foster School Department 2010-2011 school calendar as amended by Commissioner Gist at the request of Mr. Wallace. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

b. Budget 2010-2011 –

Mr. Moore reported he had spoken to the Town Treasurer, who informed Malcolm, she would be holding this quarters report until some issues are resolved. Mr. Moore will be able to forward along that report to the School Committee when it's available. Discussion followed. No motions made.

c. Budget 2011-2012 –

There was discussion on the 2011-2012 Budget.

d. Legal Services –

Mrs. Fountain reported the process of developing an RFP for Legal Services stopped due to the F/G Regional School Committee rehiring the same attorney and the FSC decided to continue with the current legal counsel from the previous school committee. The School Committee will ask the attorney for a contract proposal.

e. Grant Writing – Update –

Due to the current financial constraints, Dr. Irving reported on the need to apply for grants. Dr. Irving will research some of the Federal Grants available.

f. Budget Review Committee Recommendations –

This item was tabled until the May meeting for further review and comparison.

g. Resource Sharing with the Region – Technology –

Dr. Irving reported that she had meet with Dr. Barnes, Regional Superintendent, and requested a contract for services the region might be providing and what their responsibilities might be inside and outside the walls.

h. FELT – Update –

Mrs. Greenleaf updated the School Committee on the FELT program. The program is currently housed at the middle school.

6. Communication/Reports

a. Correspondence – None.

b. Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Irving thanked everyone for their well wishes and kind thoughts during her medical leave. She is prepared to resume her duties. She is currently getting updated on all issues since her leave.

c. Public Comment –

There was no public comment.

d. Future Agenda Items –

Federal Funding – Parent Involvement Policy – Dr. Irving.

Wellness Committee Update – Mrs. Swanson.

BCI Check – Ms. Pezza.

7. Vote to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (1) Personnel (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation was approved on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

8. Reconvene Open Session –

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 11:03 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the School committee voted to ‘seal’ the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mrs. Swanson reported out that collective bargaining and litigation were discussed but no votes were taken.

9. Adjournment –

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the School Committee voted to adjourn at 11:07 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough
Secretary Foster School Committee